



GATEWAYS TO OPPORTUNITY

Illinois Professional Development System

PDAC Higher Education Committee

March 23, 2022

Minutes

Anne Pradzinski
Carolyn Beal
Cathy Main
Cindy Rice
Cindy Rice
Danyle Watkins
Emily Dorsey
Julie Lindstrom

Joni Scritchlow
Julia Auch
Kate Connor
Kim Eck
Marcus Brown
Marilynn Ward
Melissa Batchelor
Melissa Szymczak

Mikki Sherwood
Patricia Steinhaus
Rebecca Pruitt
Sarah Gowler
Tammy Landgraf
Toni Porter
Zach Allen

Kate Connor and Rebecca Pruitt welcomed members to the PDAC Higher Education Committee Meeting.

Presentation from Kim Eck on Scholarship Information from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)

- ISAC oversees several Financial Aid Programs:
 - Monetary Award Program (MAP)
 - Golden Apple (GA) Scholars Program
 - Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program
 - Illinois Veteran (IVG) and Illinois National Guard (ING) grants
 - Details on all programs are on the www.isac.org website
 - Visit www.studentportal.isac.org for applications, tools and college planning information
- Monetary Award Program (MAP)
 - Need-based grant
 - ISAC's largest program
 - MAP awards are applicable only toward tuition and mandatory fees
 - Criteria includes but is not limited to: Must be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen or meet the undocumented student criteria of the RISE act, be a resident of Illinois, demonstrate financial need, and be enrolled in a minimum of three credit hours in a degree or certificate program at an approved institution.
 - For Students:
 - Academic Year
 - Semester school: Fall (first term) and spring (second term)
 - Quarter School: first, second and third quarters
 - No summer MAP payment
 - Students may receive up to 135 MAP paid credit hours, which is the equivalent of 4 ½ year of full-time enrollment

- Actual payment amount is based on the number of credit hours in which the student is enrolled
 - Maximum of 15 hours and minimum of 3 hours paid per term
 - Student receives 1/15 of their eligible award amount for each hour
- Minority teachers of Illinois (MTI)
 - Available to minority students enrolled in a teacher education program
 - Requires one-year teaching commitment for each year the scholarship is received
 - Current award amount is up to \$5,000 per year
 - Can receive for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters
- Golden Apple (GA) Scholars of Illinois Scholarship Program
 - The GA program is a teacher preparation and tuition assistance program for high school seniors and freshman and sophomore students at participating Illinois colleges
 - Award amounts are determined by a Scholar's year in the program
 - Maximum annual award for those in their 1st or 2nd year is \$2,500
 - Maximum annual award for those in their 3rd, 4th or 5th year is \$5,000
 - Recipients commit to teach for five years in an Illinois school of need

Report on Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five from Toni Porter

- Objectives of the project:
 - To address financial barriers to advancing or completing educational goals at accredited Illinois institutions of higher education – early childhood providers.
 - This is the third year of the program, and the target audience were early educators either current enrolled or who were blocked from future enrollment
 - Licensed providers, licensed centers, licensed family providers, Preschool for All programs, and Head Start / Early Head Start
 - Total budget of \$80,000 with a maximum reimbursement per person.
- Those who participated
 - 43% were teachers
 - 23% were assistant teachers
 - 11% were family child care providers
 - 23% were other
- Applicants indicated what type of degree they would be able to complete with the support of an education reimbursement:
 - 40.87% Associate's Degree
 - 40.87% Bachelor's Degree
 - 18.26% Graduate Degree
- Funding Outcomes:
 - \$237,400 total debt owed by 148 eligible applicants
 - \$1,604.06 average per person debt
 - \$600 maximum reimbursement per person
- Conclusion
 - The initiative was successful in its ability to provide varying amounts of relief for recipients
 - Data shows that with the program allotment of \$80,000 approximately 33% of the total debt owed or paid was reimbursed.

- With the \$600 maximum reimbursement, most recipients were able to pay down less than half their debt, while a handful could eliminate their total debt.
- Recommendations
 - Increase the education reimbursement
 - Allow recipients to apply across program years
 - Cover the costs of books, fees, graduation expenses

Approval of Minutes

- December 15, 2021
 - Cindy Rice moved to approve the minutes.
 - Melissa Batchelor seconded the motion, minutes approved.

Recap of Conversation with PDAC Leadership

- Committee needs clarification on their role.
- Focus should be on areas relevant to IDHS
- Committee to frame specific recommendations that could move forward to IDHS.
- PDAC leadership assured that the faculty voice is important to them and PDAC.
- The focus of recommendations sits with IDHS, but not ignoring the possibility of recommendations touching other state agencies.

Reflections of previous meetings

- In development of the plan – Goal 4 – we did create a goal how the communication should be handled reciprocal communication. We could work on what are the lines of communication what we want to include in their meetings.
- Professional Development Advisory Council is convened at the request of IDHS to create PD for primarily the Early Care and Education workforce.
- IDHS has just created a brand-new division – The Division of Early Childhood.
- Hollie and Olga indicated there are excellent goals collectively across all the PDAC committees. Some goals might be more relevant at other tables if IDHS does not have guidance oversight. The revisions didn't mean they were not important just not in IDHS circle of influence.
- IDHS contracts with INCCRRA to administer Gateways system. A separate piece is the convening and coordination of PDAC.
- Goal 4 – mentions the State Competency Leadership Team – does the team still exist, if not should this be revised in the goal.

Adjourn

